



**NOAA Teacher at Sea
Jacquelyn Hams
Onboard NOAA Ship RAINIER
July 22-August 11 2006**

July 30, 2006

Science and Technology Log

1400

Weather: Partly cloudy
Visibility: 10 nm
Wind direction: 255
Wind speed: 10 knots
Sea Wave height: /
Swell Waves direction: /
Swell height: /
Seawater temperature: 9.40
degrees C
Sea level pressure: 1016.8 mb
Temperature dry bulb: 11.7
degrees C
Temperature wet bulb: 10.6
degrees C



TAS Jacquelyn Hams charting a course in the Pilot House

The RAINIER is anchored in Porpoise Harbor while boats conduct hydrography surveys. I complete my first navigation assignment given to me by ENS Nate Eldridge, RAINIER Junior Officer. The assignment is to plot a course from our anchorage at Porpoise Harbor to our next anchorage at Northeast Bight. ENS Eldridge provides with the detailed sail plan showing waypoints, distances, bearings (directions) as a way of checking my work. NOAA has several checks and balances that navigators use to assure accuracy of charts.

After a rough start, I begin to get the hang of it. NOAA charts are extremely accurate and a larger than normal dot and circle can result in an error of one or two degrees. Most of my navigation skills are related to recreational boating or classroom teaching, both of which allow a large margin for error. Toward the end of the exercise I begin to make small but precise points. ENS Eldridge revises the sail plan due to a change in weather and I complete the revised chart. When pressed, ENS Eldridge said he would give me an A- on my course! I feel that working with the NOAA navigation officers here will provide me with a skill I can take back to the classroom.

